



## Maria College students entertain with their annual “Talent Show”

The end-of-the-year talent show put on by the students of Maria College usually attracts a large audience, as it has a reputation of being a jubilant and entertaining evening, and this year was no exception. The auditorium of the Cas di Cultura in Oranjestad was well filled on Friday evening, June 15, with ticket proceeds helping to support the school. Acting as Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening was Physics and Chemistry teacher Robin Diddier.

Maria College is where Jair Vesprey, this year’s Junior Road March King attends school, and his rendition of a Carnival favorite was energetic and professional. Jair’s presentation was the grand finale of the first part of the evening titled “Amor di Nos Pais,” (Love of our Country,) which was devoted to traditional music and dance of Aruba.

The larger portion of the program allowed for the individual creativity of the students in their choice of presentation, and it would appear that hip-hop, rap music and the popular top forty tunes are well established as favorites amongst Aruban youth. The threesome of Junior, Sherwin, and Xavier, calling themselves “Underground” were quite adept at rap in Papiamentu, Spanish and English, flowing freely between the three languages as they rhythmically declared their teenage *angst*.

Various dance groups, such as “Machucando” showed remarkable promise and for something *completely different*, there was a virtuoso performance by youngsters under the tutelage of Student Teacher Jasmira on the glockenspiel! This drew thunderous applause from the audience.

The Maria College annual talent show is usually conducted in the school courtyard, drawing a large crowd. This year administrators felt it would be an interesting experiment to offer it to the community in a more public and professional venue. The response was enthusiastic and the students delivered a delightful evening of song, dance, and skits.